MDG/PDG
Weekly Q&A Sessions
Agenda

• Introduction to VECF’s weekly Opportunities Ahead Q&A sessions
• VECF’s position statement on COVID-19
• Review of the “Why”
• Brief overview of the Preschool Development Grant B-5 (PDG) and Mixed Delivery Grants (MDG) opportunities
• Review revised dates in the Letter of Intent (LOI) and application process
• Questions from webinar participants
Review of Opportunities Ahead for Virginia Communities: PDG and MDG

• Participation in high quality early childhood programs can effectively support the school readiness of at-risk children. In order to help communities representing one or more localities increase the opportunities for young children and their families to benefit, VECF will offer opportunities for communities to apply to participate in PDG and/or Mixed Delivery Grants.

• Virginia has been awarded a 3-year federal grant for PDG B-5. MDG has been funded at $5 million per year for 2020-21 and 2021-22.

• Required Letters of Intent (LOIs) are due to VECF no later than March 31, 2020, 5:00 pm.
Mixed Delivery Grants (MDG)

- Mixed Delivery Grants will support public/private systems of preschool delivery with a focus on expanding the number of at-risk 3- and/or 4-year-old children served in high-quality private/community-based ECCE by:
  - **building relationships** to ensure coordinated community decision-making and effective use of resources;
  - **increasing access** to high quality ECCE in private/community-based (non-school-based) settings for at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds;
  - **improving quality**, including through providing CLASS observations and related quality improvement support in publicly funded classrooms; and
  - **engaging families** in communication and decision making
- Mixed Delivery Grants are intended to increase the capacity of communities to serve at-risk 3- and 4-year-olds who currently are unserved in a publicly-funded ECCE program (e.g., VPI; Head Start; or subsidized child care in centers, homes, or preschools).
Preschool Development Grant
Birth to Five (PDG)

PDG funding will support new communities in convening community stakeholders and engaging them in assessing and improving access to and quality of all publicly funded ECCE for children B-5 by:

– **building relationships**, including communicating with and coordinating PDG activities with all publicly funded ECCE partners;

– **increasing access**, including by assessing current program enrollment practices, analyzing needs data, and beginning to implement coordinated enrollment activities;

– **improving quality**, including through providing CLASS observations and related quality improvement support in all publicly funded classrooms; and

– **engaging families** in communication and decision making.
Study on PDG 2019 Pilot (Cohort 1) Communities

Study of Cohort 1 PDG work designed by UVA researchers to help us understand:
- conditions and well-being of the workforce
- effects a financial incentive could have on workforce retention and stability

In order to maximize the resources and learnings from the associated study to benefit Virginia’s early education workforce in the future, the recognition grant program and study will proceed only for the initial cohort of PDG pilots.

There will not be an educator incentive for a second cohort in 2020-2021.
Technical assistance in the form of webinars, FAQs, and phone calls will be provided throughout the application period. Please stay tuned to VECF social media and website for updates.
I see on your website that the due date for the LOI has now been extended to March 31st, but the online LOI form still says it’s due on March 20th. Which is correct?

The due date, as of March 13th, has been extended to March 31st. Because dates relevant to the LOI can’t be changed at this point in our online system at this point, dates included within the LOI form, including the original due date of March 20, 2020, are no longer accurate. Please visit our website and follow us on social media to stay abreast of any other deadline updates.
Q&A

VECF emphasizes that communities should convene and decide together whether to submit an LOI and for which funding opportunity. With the restrictions related to COVID-19 in place, including social distancing and school and some child care closures, is this still a requirement?

VECF recognizes the troubling nature of the current COVID-19-related environment and its impact and implications on all of us. We are all taking precautions to protect our staff, families, and the community at large, and understand that this means quickly developing new ways of doing business. We hope that communities were able to start conversations about PDG and MDG opportunities earlier this year when we learned that PDG funding was secured and MDG funding was possible. We understand that more conversations may be necessary in the next week or so in some communities. Please make best use of virtual meeting services and conference calls to continue conversations with key stakeholders, as much as possible.
Q&A

What is the funding range for PDG? How will I know how much funding my community can apply for?

Funding ranges for PDG based on the number of publicly funded classrooms within your specified region. The funding schedule posted on VECF’s Opportunities Ahead webpage show “up-to” amounts for new PDG grantees in 2020-2021 based on participation of all publicly-funded classrooms in a geographic area. Note that these are estimates based on the number of sites that receive public funding.
Keeping Informed

• To receive information and details about PDG and MDG opportunities, application requirements, and deadlines, please:
  – Follow VECF on Facebook (www.facebook.com/SmartBeginnings) or Twitter (@SB_VECF).
  – Visit our website, www.vecf.org, for the most up-to-date information.

• Comments and questions, please send inquiries to info@vecf.org. Questions will not receive individual responses, but they will inform regularly updated FAQs.